

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

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: **S E C R E T** :
: Per Auth: CO, 701 TD Bn. :
: Initials: :
: Date : 1 March 1945 :
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1 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Operations Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, U.S. Army, Washington 25, D.C. (Thru Channels)

1. Submitted herewith Operations Report of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion for the period 1- 28 February 1945, inclusive, in compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, dated 10 March 1943.

2. This operations report is taken from the Unit Journal and Unit Diary and supporting documentary evidence is attached thereto.

3. Operations report covering period through 31 January 1945 submitted previously.

For the Commanding Officers:

1 Incl
Opns Rpt w/allied papers.

JOHN E. DOOLEY,
1st Lt., 701st TD Bn.,
Adjutant.

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OPERATIONS OF THE 701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Period: 1 February - 28 February 1945.

Location of 701st TD Bn. beginning of period:

MAPS: 1/50,000, Sheets 97 I, II, 104 I, II, GSGS, Italy.
Bn CP - L582120. Bn Trains - L581118.
A Co CP - L587147. 1st Plat, 1st Sect. L588177; 2d Sect. 587147.
2d Plat, 502138.
3d Plat, 554124.
B Co CP - U954895. 6 guns - U9570-9000; 6 guns U9578-9036.
C Co CP - L5570-1260. 6 guns - 5583-1255; 6 guns - 6116-1516; 2 guns -
5600-1266 (88mm)
Rcn Co CP L668183.

The period opened with A Co in direct fire position and C Co in arty position under operational control of 424 F.A. Group. B Co, attached to 92 Division Artillery, in artillery positions. C Co manned two (2) 88mm guns for 424 F.A. Group. Rcn Co, attached to II Corps and further attached to 81st Rcn. Sq., made reconnaissance of area in vic L677196.

1 Feb - A Co closed 311700A Jan 45 at L587147 in direct fire positions under operational control of 424 F.A. Group. B Co closed 312300A Jan 45 at U954895 in artillery positions, atchd to 92 Div Arty. C Co closed 311615A Jan 45 at L55701260 in artillery positions under operational control of 424 F.A. Group. C Co manned two (2) 88mm guns for 424 F.A. Group.

2 Feb - A and B Companies - No activity for the period. C Co fired harassing missions. Rcn Co, still detchd, conducting mortar school.

3 Feb - A and C Companies normal harassing missions. A Co OP at 587178 and 500138. C Co OP at 543126.

4 Feb - Rcn Co, atchd 81 Rcn Sq, began relief of "B" Troop, 81 Rcn Sq at 031200A Feb, completed at 061700A Feb, Rcn Co CP at L678196, 1st Plat, 1st Section at 674207, 2d Section at 676206, 2d Plat at 680208, 3d Plat at 681197, Pioneer Platoon, (3 Mortars) at 681194.

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5 - 6 Feb Normal fire missions carried out by the Companies.

7 Feb - B Co attached 92 Inf. Division 061200A Feb. 1st Platoon, B Co, attached 3d Bn 366 Inf. Bn., 2d Plat attached 370 Inf. Regt. 1st and 2d Platoons supporting 760 Tank Bn. 3d Plat attached 371 Inf. Regt.

8 Feb - B Co supported attack of 92 Inf. Division. 1st Plat. vic 910956 in direct fire position. 2d Plat. vic 934972, direct fire, 3d Plat, reinforcing fires of 599 F.A. Bn. from 957900.

9-17 Feb - A, B, and C Companies continued normal fire missions. Fires observed by A and C Companies OPs. Ron Co continues to carry out security patrols along Reno River in sector.

18 Feb - A Co (-1st Plat) attached 10MT Div and further attached to Division Artillery, 10 MT Division as of 170001A Feb. 1st Plat, A Co, attached to 751 Tank Bn. 170001A Feb. C Co detached operational control from 424 F.A. Group and attached 248 F.A. Bn. for operational control 181200A Feb 45. B Co remains in general artillery support of 92 Division.

19 Feb - A Co, CP at 517129, 1st Plat 588177, 2d Plat, 1st Section, 489151, 2d Section 493141, 3d Plat, 517129. C Co (OP) C-24 at 584182 closed 182000A Feb. B Co, detached 92 Inf. Division 190600A Feb 45, in route to 561155 at close of period. Will revert to Bn control upon closing.

20 Feb - A Co, 1st Plat, 3 guns at 588182, 2d Plat, 2 guns at 483158, 2 guns at 402142, supporting 10 MT Division in artillery role. B Co CP at 5575-1495, 6 guns at 5553-1474, 4 guns at 555-150, 2 guns at 561-155, closed 192250A Feb reverting to Bn control. Supporting BEP in artillery role.

21 Feb - A Co (-1st Plat) in support of 10 MT Division moved 2d Plat vic 545-188, 3d Plat vic 5185-1695, 5190-1699, 5265-1732, 5263-1760. B Co prepared to move to new positions.

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22 Feb - A-24 (OP) closed 212000A Feb 45 and A-24B closed 212000A Feb.

Bn (-A and Rcn Cos) attached to 248 F.A. Bn. for operational control 221800A Feb 45. A Co (-1st Plat) in support of 10 MT Division closed: A-1, 1st Section, at 584-183, 2d Section at 588-182, A-2, 1st Section, 539-184, 2d Section at 545-183. B Co, in support of 10 MT Division moved 6 guns to 555-150.

23 Feb - A Co (-1st Plat) in support of 10 MT Division, 2d Plat at 539-183, 541-183, 544-184, 543-185; 3d Plat at 520-171, 526-178, 524-172, firing on ey strong point. 1st Plat, A Co, 2 guns at 587-188, 1 gun at 585-184, supporting 751 Tank Bn. B and C Companies normal harassing missions. Rcn Co, still detached, carrying out routine security patrols along Reno River.

24 Feb - C-24 (OP) opened at 588-190 at 231830A Feb 45. A, B, and C Companies normal harassing missions for the period.

25 Feb - A Co (-1st Plat) in support of 10 MT Division moved 1 gun to 586-188 and 2 guns at 585-184.

26 Feb - A Co (-1st Plat), 3d Plat assembled at 500-138, assuming roving gun mission. Firing positions at 588-152, 505-155, 514-167, and at 493-141 which is stationary position for 1 gun. 2d Plat, 1 gun at Gaggio Montano. A Co CP closed 261600A Feb 45 at Silla.

27-28 Feb - Normal harassing missions carried out for the period. Rcn Co, still detached, no change. A Co CP closed at 517-126.

Positions at close of period:

Bn CP L582-120	Bn Trains L581118
A Co CP L517-126	1st Plat, 2 guns at 587-188, 1 gun at 585-184
	2d Plat at 539-183, 541-183, 544-184, 543-185.
B Co CP L5574-1495	6 guns at 5553-1474, 4 guns at 555-150,
	2 guns at 561-155.
C Co CP L5570-1260	6 guns at 5580-1225, 6 guns at 6116-1510
	(2 guns at L5597-1261, 88mm)
Rcn Co CP L678-196	1st Plat, 1st Section at 674-207, 2d Section at 676-206
	2d Plat, 680-208, 3d Plat, 681-197, Pioneer Plat (3 mortars)
	681-194.

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ANNEX



Ammunition Expenditure during period:

3", High Explosive - - - - -	14,425
3", APC - - - - -	20
3", Smoke - - - - -	467
3", Time - - - - -	182
3", Illuminating - - - - -	123
3", Reduced Charge - - - - -	37
88mm, High Explosive - - - - -	<u>995</u>
Total	16,219

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HEADQUARTERS
701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 464 - U.S. ARMY

March 1, 1945

COMBAT LESSONS LEARNED - 1 - 28 FEBRUARY 1945

1. During recent operations the proper reports on the action and troop disposition of the Companies have not been satisfactory. The reports have been accurate but not on time.

2. In the attempt to determine the cause, the reasons most generally given are:

(1) Not enough time, and (2) Too busy.

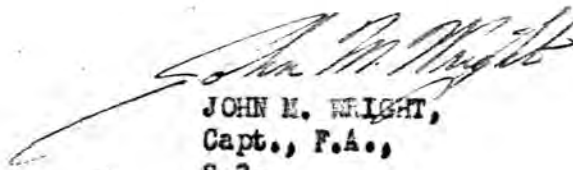
3. It is believed that this deficiency can be corrected by devoting more time to the development of the Leader - Radio Operator team. As it stands now the leader, whether he be Chief of Section, Platoon Leader, or Company Commander, lacks confidence in the radio operator. He is regarded as a radio tender or watchman.

4. The training of radio operators should be divided into two phases. Phase #1 should be separate training for the radio operators to cover proper procedure, care and operation of the set, use of AF codes, and the use of map reference point code.

Phase #2 should be training in which the leader and the radio operator work together. This training will include paraphrasing the message in the clear to make it conform to the limitations of the code sheet and yet retain the intent of the original message. Another step will have the radio operator repeat the exact words of the leader when transmitting a message in the clear. Too many operators attempt to out-guess the intentions of the leader and too often are wrong.

5. Once the leader has confidence in the ability of his operator then a minute or two of his time will suffice in the submission of reports.

For the Commanding Officer:


JOHN M. WRIGHT,
Capt., F.A.,
S-3.

HEADQUARTERS IV CORPS
THE COMBINED ARMS



27 February 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : Commanding Officer, 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion,
APO 144, U. S. Army

is gratifying for us to commend you for the offensive efforts displayed by your battalion in the recent IV Corps operation in Italy.

By your excellent leadership, tank destroyers fought their way against stubborn enemy resistance on some of the most difficult terrain up to and along it. Delivodere and on to Cappella di Ronchidos, which eventually placed elements of your organization on important commanding ground in direct observation of enemy road nets.

Although some of your elements were employed to supplement the artillery fires, others were used in the more characteristic tank destroyer role of aggressively engaging the enemy in combat, which role is so vital against an enemy equipped with tanks, armor and self-propelled units.

Individual roving tank destroyers along this sector also aided materially in establishing firmly our recently won positions.

WILLIS D. G. [unclear]
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

ATTACHED

John E. Dooley
1st Lt., U. S. Army
with unit.

(Circular stamp)

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ANNEX TO OPERATIONS REPORT

1. During the period, 1-28 February 1945, this organization suffered the following personnel battle casualties:

Pfc	Clyde Norton	38029256	Co "B"	LWA	9 Feb 45
Pvt	John T. Foster	14141918	Co "C"	LWA	13 Feb 45

2. The following changes in status of previously reported personnel battle casualties are reported:

Cpl George W. Marceau 11038900 Co "A" LWA 15 Dec 44 RTD 24 Feb 45

3. During the period, 1-28 February 1945, the following awards to personnel of this organization were announced:

a. Bronze Star Medal

1. 2d Lt KRISTE B. WINTON, O-1999105, Rcn Co., for meritorious services, in support of combat operations, from 20 October 1944 to 24 December 1944, per Sec V, GO No. 14, Hq. Fifth Army, dated 6 February 1945:
2. T/Sgt Laurence J. Fahy, 36009928, Hq & Hq Co., for meritorious services in combat, from 24 February 1944 to 5 June 1944, per Sec V GO No. 14, Hq Fifth Army, dated 6 February 1945.
3. S/Sgt Henry J. Schultz, 35005479, Co "A", for meritorious services in combat from 25 March 1944 to 5 June 1944, per Sec V, GO No. 14, Hq Fifth Army, dated 6 February 1945.
4. S/Sgt James H. Grubbs, 6661575, Co "C", for meritorious services in support of combat operations, from 22 May 1944 to 9 September 1944, per Sec V, GO No. 14, Hq Fifth Army, dated 6 February 1945.

b. 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart.

1. Tec 5 George W. Mangum, 37368178, Co "C", per Sec II, GO No. 10, Hq 1st Armd Div., cs.

c. Purple Heart for Wounds Received in Action Against the Enemy.

1. Sgt Julius J. Fussell, 34208886, Co "C", per Sec II, GO No. 9, Hq 1st Armd Div., cs.
2. Tec 5 Deloss B. Morgan, 37449635, Co "C", per Sec II, GO No. 9, Hq 1st Armd Div., cs.

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Purple Heart for Wounds Received in Action Against the Enemy (cont)

3. Cpl Ernest Alorritton, 31057426, Co "C", per Sec II, GO No. 9, Hq 1st Armd Div., cs.
4. Tec 5 George W. Mangum, 37358178, Co "C", per Sec I, GO No. 10, Hq 1st Armd Div., cs.
5. Tec 4 Edward R. Hines, 7041351, Co "C", per Sec II, GO No. 10, Hq 1st Armd Div., cs.
6. Pvt Porter J. Spencer, 7040507, Co "C", per Sec I, GO No. 11, Hq 1st Armd Div., cs.

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